

What Is Claimed Is:

1. A method for manufacturing a solid housing (66), in particular a valve housing for an electromagnetically operable valve, wherein the housing (66) has at least three zones (55, 56, 57), two directly adjacent zones (55, 56, 57) having different magnetic properties, including the method steps:
  - a) providing at least three flat sheet metal plates (60, 61) side by side, each having different magnetic properties directly adjacent to the others,
  - b) joining the at least three sheet metal plates (60, 61) at the directly adjacent bordering edges (65) to form a sheet metal section (62),
  - c) shaping the sheet metal section (62) into a sleeve shape,
  - d) joining together the bordering edges (65'), which are now opposite one another and run in the longitudinal direction of the sleeve, to form a sleeve blank (64),
  - e) final machining of the sleeve blank (64) until a desired geometry of the housing (66) is achieved.
2. The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein two outer sheet metal plates (60) are made of a magnetic material and the middle metal plate (61) inserted between these two plates (60) is made of a nonmagnetic material.
3. The method as recited in Claim 2, wherein the outer sheet metal plates (60) are ferromagnetic or ferritic and the sheet metal plate (61) in between is austenitic.

4. The method as recited in one of Claims 1 through 3, wherein the sheet metal plates (60, 61) are supplied in the form of flat rolled sheet metal sections cut to size.
5. The method as recited in one of Claims 1 through 4, wherein the plates (60, 61) are joined at the directly adjacent bordering edges (65) by laser welding.
6. The method as recited in one of Claims 1 through 5, wherein the sheet metal section (62) is shaped into a sleeve shape by rolling or bending.
7. The method as recited in one of Claims 1 through 6, wherein the bordering edges (65') which are on opposite sides after shaping and run in the longitudinal direction of the sleeve are joined by laser welding.
8. The method as recited in one of Claims 1 through 7, wherein the final machining of the sleeve blank (64) is performed by drawing, rolling, flanging and/or welding with a single U-groove weld.